
Report from Acting Highway Administrator:

Update on Waze and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge

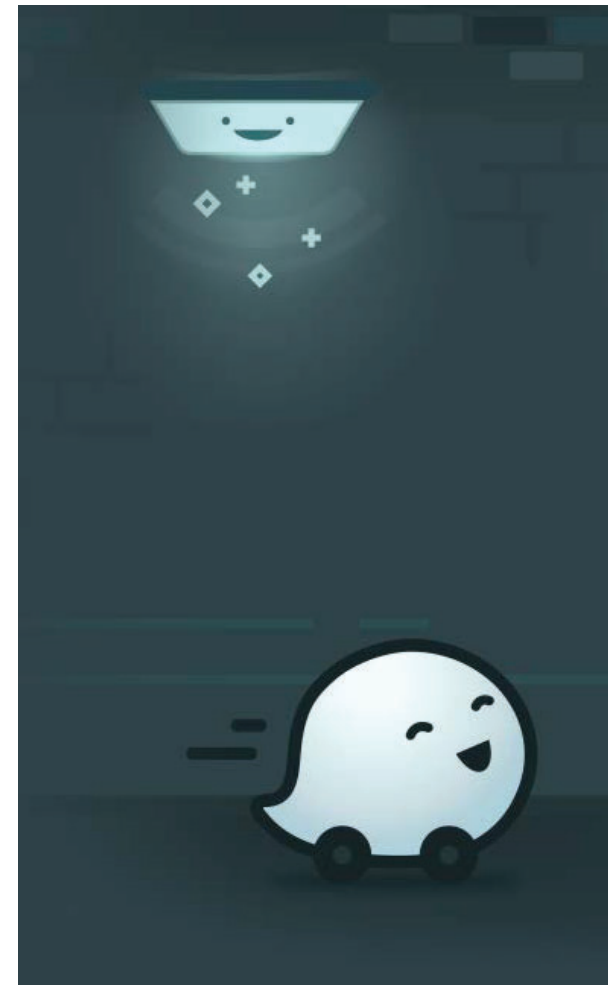
July 17, 2017

- MassDOT Highway Division has partnered with WAZE to install navigational beacons within the tunnel system in order to improve GPS reception where reception is poor.
- This partnership will improve safety and the customer experience within the tunnel system by reducing driver confusion.
- Installations will occur in the Ted Williams, Cana, and O'Neil tunnels
- These beacons were provided to MassDOT at no cost, and the Highway Division is installing these beacons during pre-scheduled tunnel lane closures



Photo credit: venturebeat.com

- Enable uninterrupted location services underground ensuring drivers never miss an in-tunnel exit.
- Providing seamless navigation to drivers underground where GPS signal is not possible.
- Improve driver routing and safety
- Better visibility and traffic flow into, through and out of tunnels means safer road conditions for all.
- Free and open technology means all GPS providers can incorporate the Waze Beacons solution, serving Waze users and non-Waze drivers alike.



- 850 beacons (no cost, but valued at \$23,000)
- Approximately 42 beacons per mile of tunnel are required for effective operation.
- Testing occurred during June with installation beginning in July.
 - Scheduled to be complete by end of July
- The beacons transmit data to drivers, but do not collect information. Therefore this technology does not raise privacy concerns.



*MassDOT Tunnel Engineer
installing beacons*

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- Project will use accelerated bridge construction to replace the full superstructure over two intensive construction windows: Summer 2017 (eastbound portion of the bridge) and Summer 2018 (westbound portion of the bridge)
 - During Summer 2017 construction, there will be an 18 ½ day intensive closure window which will have significant impacts to local/regional vehicular traffic and Green Line/Commuter Rail travelers.
 - **This construction window will occur from July 26th – August 14th**
 - Initial lane reductions to 3 lanes in each direction on I-90 went into place on July 7th
 - I-90 will be reduced to 2 lanes in each direction on July 28th
 - This window was carefully selected timeframe to minimize traffic impacts, based on traffic volumes, MBTA ridership, Boston University summer break, and special events in the area.
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Project Schedule

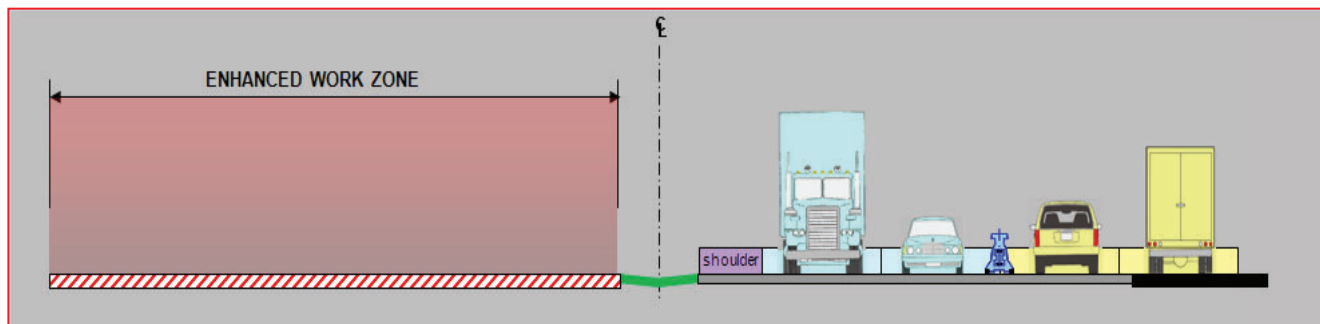
Facility	Traffic Impact	Notes
MBTA Green "B" Line (Blandford St to Babcock St)	Closed from Blandford St to Babcock St for 18½ days	<i>Shuttle bus service between Blandford St and Babcock St</i>
MBTA Bus Routes CT2 and 47	Detoured from normal routes for 17 ½ days	<i>Detour maps will be provided</i>
Commonwealth Avenue (Packard's Corner to Kenmore)	Closed to private vehicular traffic for 17½ days	<i>Bridge open to only buses, emergency vehicles, peds/bikes</i>
BU Bridge	Closed to private vehicular traffic for 17½ days	<i>Bridge open to only buses, emergency vehicles, peds/bikes</i>
I-90	Traffic shift for 9½ days	<i>2 lanes each direction during peak period</i>
MBTA Commuter Rail (Worcester Line)	Closed from Boston Landing to South Station for 2 weekends	<i>Shuttle bus service from Boston Landing to Reservoir Station (Yawkey Way during Sox games)</i>
Amtrak (Lake Shore Line)	Closed for 2 weekends	<i>Shuttle bus service from Albany, NY to Boston</i>

	Wed	Thurs	*Fri*	*Sat*	*Sun*	*Mon*	*Tues*	*Wed*	*Thurs*	*Fri*	*Sat*	*Sun*	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug
MBTA Green Line Bus Diversion	9:00 PM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5:00 AM
Comm Ave CLOSED to private vehicular traffic		7:00 PM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5:00 AM
BU Bridge CLOSED to private vehicular traffic		7:00 PM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5:00 AM
MBTA CT2 & 47 Detours		7:00 PM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5:00 AM
I-90 Lane Reductions			9:00 PM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	5:00 AM							
Commuter Rail Bus Diversion				x	x						x	x								
Shuttle to Yawkey										Shuttle to Yawkey										

* = Red Sox Home Games

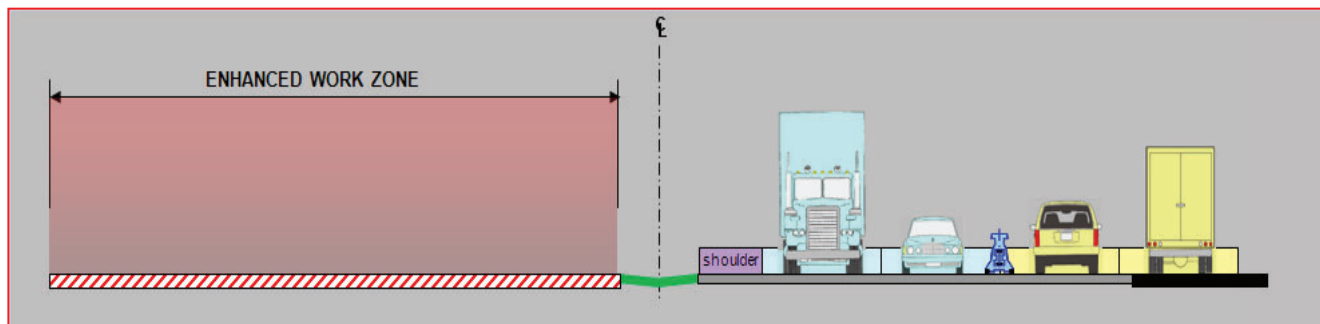
I-90 “Cross Over” and Dry Run

MassDOT is using a “zipper barrier” and other traffic control devices to channelize traffic to one side of I-90. Dry run completed last month successfully.



I-90 “Cross Over” and Dry Run

Dry run data helped inform the project team on traffic flow and enabled adjustments to be made in advance of major construction window.



Outreach and Communication

Completed

- 5 Public meetings 3 legislative briefings
- Targeted stakeholder briefings
- Dedicated Project Email Address
- Active Project Website (www.mass.gov/massdot/commavebridge)
- Email to E-ZPass holders (for Dry-run)
- Door to door flyers / business outreach
- Printed materials (brochures, flyers) available in multiple languages

Ongoing

- Business Working Group Meetings
- Working Group meets bi-weekly with 5 subcommittees
- Outreach to Taxis/TNCs
- Coordination with Hubway for additional pickup locations
- Coordination with Waze/Google for road closures

Upcoming

- Real Time Traffic Monitoring System active during shutdown
- Email Red Sox season ticket holders
- Radio and Television spots during Red Sox game broadcasts
- MBTA Marketing Campaign
- Keolis Rail Mail
- Emails to E-Zpass holders
- VMS Board advertisements

Immediate Next Steps

- More information can be found at
www.mass.gov/massdot/commavebridge